

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes 3 October 2021

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 13 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report. Phil opted to proceed directly to the election of club officers and covered the club status in the new business discussion.

Phil turned the meeting over to the club secretary, Michael, for the annual election of club officers.

Michael announced that the president, Phil Thain, vice-president, Paul Oullette Jr., and safety officer, Mark Higgins, are all willing to continue in their respective roles, but welcome anyone who wishes to run for an office position. The position of Secretary/Treasurer/AM Contact is open as Michael is stepping down after six years. John Choroszy had already indicated interest in that position.

Michael then asked if anyone was interested in running for president or VP. No one expressed interest in running for either position, so motions were made and Phil and Paul were elected unanimously.

Nominations were opened for the secretary/treasurer/AMA contact position. John Choroszy was nominated and seconded. No one else expressed interest and John was elected unanimously. It was decided that our VP, Paul, would be listed as a second person on the PeoplesChoice account, thereby replacing former club member Tony Espino who performed that function up to, and through, this season.

Nominations were opened for the safety officer position. Tyler McCormack expressed interest and was nominated and seconded. Mark Higgins withdrew his name. Tyler was elected unanimously.

The meeting was then returned back to Phil.

Phil then asked for the Treasurer's report. Michael reported that the club has a balance of \$1,988.36 in the checking account and \$1,629.23 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$29 for mower fuel. Prior to the start of the meeting, a check was written in the amount of \$42.02 to cover the cost of new windsocks (replacement and spare supplies.)

Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report. Steve informed the members that he would be preparing the field for Winter around the first week of November. The previously approved fencing and runway improvements will be started next year. Phil commented that reseeding should have taken place early in September, but prior weather issues had interfered with flying and Phil did not want to close the field that early. Phil remarked that the runway is approximately 48,000 sq.ft. The seed alone would be close to \$1,000 with fertilizer extra. Steve will be looking at alternatives. As the street roller at the start of this season worked so well, Steve will look into repeating that effort next year.

The dock repairs will be considered next year. Phil reported that a potential new member had previously salvaged a pressure treated deck (around 8' by 10') and is willing to donate it to the club for the dock repair. Flotation of some form will still be required if the current equipment is not salvageable.

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Mark has observed that some folks had hit the near end trees and offered to cut them down this Winter (with Albert's approval.) There was some discussion about pilot error. Phil remarked that, if the sun is shining, then when the shadow of the plane is observed

on the trees, the plane is safely clear and further descent is feasible. After much discussion, it was agreed that the trees should be removed if Albert approves.

Phil then asked if there was any new business. Phil proposed changing the meeting scheule from a Sunday with a week later for a rain date to a Saturday with a rain date of the following day (Sunday.) After a little discussion a motion was made, seconded, and approved to shift future meetings to Saturdays with the next day serving as a rain date. For 2022, the four meeting dates are now: April 30th, July 9th, August 27th, and October 1st.

Mark raised the issue about the height of the PVC pilot stations; specifically requesting that they be lowered by at least a foot thereby still providing safety for the pilot without interfering with transmitter antennae; especially for those still using older equipment. After considered discussion, it was agreed that Steve would lower one of the three stations for a trial. Phil commented that he had observed an instructor/student operation at the far end of the field. Clearly, no one could hear pilot callouts and the student was not being introduced to safe practices. Phil then requested that pilots remain behind a pilot station while flying unless there is a special circumstance (discuss with safety officer.)

A comment was raised about having a “Co-Safety Officer” for the weekday pilots as Tyler is usually at the field on weekends only. Paul raised the point that the AMA Safety Guidelines encourage every member to raise a safety issue with any other pilot. As a reminder, our club ByLaws not only encourages this approach, but should the issue be ignored, then the member can call a club officer who can ground the offending pilot.

Phil then solicited comments about field mowing. Phil mentioned that a landscape company would be too expensive. Discussion included a rotation schedule of members or an increase of dues to compensate whoever mowed the field. Phil mentioned that he had spoken to former club member (and longtime field mower), Woody, about mowing and Woody expressed interest. After discussion about a per mowing fee versus a one-time gift card, it was decided (motion/seconded/approved) to compensate Woody at the rate of \$20 per mowing operation. Steve estimated that the field is mowed about 22 times in a season.

Discussion then centered on raising the club dues from \$30 to \$50 for the next flying season to pay for field maintenance; e.g., mowing. As we have numerous inactive members, some folks thought the club should have the dues set at \$50 for active flying members and remain at \$30 for inactive (AKA associate) members. A motion was made/seconded/approved to have a single \$50 dues fee as it was considerably less than the dues of other clubs which with members have knowledge (e.g., \$75, \$150.)

There was nothing else to report, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Michael Pilla, Secretary

ADDENDUM: Post meeting, a check was written in the amount of \$209.10 to reimburse Phil for the two gift cards presented to our host, Albert Lavigne, at the July club picnic (Albert does not charge for our use of the field.)